

**ABSTRACT**

A printer and a printing method, wherein the printer comprises, in one embodiment: a frame; a set of non-movable print heads fixed to the frame; an idler carriage for carrying a web, said idler carriage disposed a distance from the set of print heads so that ink from the print heads will be received by the web; and a carriage translation assembly to move the idler carriage to vary the distance between the set of print heads and the idler carriage. In a preferred embodiment, the carriage translation assembly comprises at least one slide shaft; wherein the idler carriage is disposed to slide linearly along the slide shaft; and a force mechanism is provided for exerting a force to move the idler carriage linearly along the slide shaft.